(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the proposal of the scheme and release the matching contributions as requested by Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No such proposal of Government of Kerala is under consideration at present. The saving-cum-relief (SCR) component of the Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen was revised in 2000-2001. As per revised funding pattern of SCR component, the marine fisher has to contribute Rs. 75 per month instead of Rs. 45 during the non-lean period of 8 months. The accumulated amount together with matching amount shared by the Central and State Government on 50:50 basis is disbursed to the beneficiaries in four monthly installments of Rs. 300 each during the lean period. The Central assistance is extended to the States including Kerala on receipt of proposals as per existing guidelines of the scheme. However, Central assistance of Rs. 485.5 lakh has been extended to State of Kerala in 2002-2003 under various schemes for the benefit of fisherfolk.

Constitutional Status to CACP

1350. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government to provide constitutional status to the Commission of Agriculture Costs and Prices;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) by when the final decision will be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) One of the recommendations under the head "Minimum Support Prices and Procurement" made by the High Level Committee on Long—

Term Grain Policy (July, 2002) under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen set up by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) relates to the status of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). According to the Committee, the CACP should be made an empowered statutory body.

(b) and (c) In order to examine methodological and related recommendations in the light of the main conclusions/ recommendations of the National Seminar on Methodological Issues in the Fixation of Minimum Support Prices held in New Delhi in November 6-7, 2002 an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Y.K. Alagh has recently been set up. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Committee include examination of issues having a bearing on the status of CACP.

Minikit under Macro Management Programme

†1351. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making arrangements for providing minikits in time in different centrally sponsored Macro Management Programme;

(b) whether Government will consider to fix time-limit for supply of minikits from next year; and

(c) if so, whether Government will provide amount of their share adequately and in time as per the demand; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Minikit programme is not covered under Macro Management Scheme, which was evolved by merging 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Under Macro Management Scheme, the States have been given flexibility to develop and pursue activity on the basis of their regional priorities and they are free, within given parameter to select any/all the 27 Schemes and their components and include

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.